AN ANSWER TO A LETTER

Sent to the

Mayor of Salisbury,

About Electing MEMBERS for the Ensuing PARLIAMENT.

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THE Letter lately sent to the Mayor of *Sarum*, by some nameless Person, is so Scandalous and false and tends so much to the defaming our most Worthy Patriots, that it well deserves a severe Censure. The wretched Author Conscious of his guilt has been subtle enough to conceal himself, and is now lurking to observe the effects his Poyson may produce.

There is no doubt but the Wise and Good will despise and detest this Impudent and Infamous Libel, but since 'tis possible that some may not be so well instructed in publick affairs, but that this Paper may misguid them, 'tis thought necessary to clear the Aspersed Members from such unjust reflections.

By the direction to *Sarum*, It is plaine that the Worthy Members serving for that Place are intended, Persons whose very Names and known Worth banish all Calumny; This Scribler therefore had done well to have given his reason why before he taxeth them with being Anti-monarchical, and against the Established Church.

Is it a sign of being against Monarchy to Vote for a Crown rather than a Regency. (which in our case was an absolute imposibility) And to frequent our Church rather then a Tavern, is that a Mark of being an Anti-Church-Man? None ever taxt those worthy Gentlemen with either of those accusations, but such as were for that inconsiistent *Chimera* of the Regency; and the Devotes of Taverns, what then can be concluded the desingn of this Paper? Not the Settlement of Monarchy and Defending the Church, but bringing back the Abdicated King, and introducing Slavery and Popery, and this seems to be confirmed by the last article of *taking Court pay to serve their Bribers*, for what else can be meant by that equally false and foolish Calumny, but serving King *William*.

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They are likewiſe charged with being falſe to their Creators, but no inſtance given: Some perſons are very forward to charge their own faults upon others, as it may well be concluded thoſe Gentlemen do, who will neither ſuffer perſons to be queſtioned for delivering up Charters, nor indeed any material and effectual Inquiry to be made into the Male Adminiſtration of Publick Affairs.

It may be ſhrewdly ſuſpected, by the good Advice the Author gives, and by the ſubject and manner of it, that this is intended for a Circular Letter, and may therefore Kiſs more Hands than the Mayors, ſo that it cannot be thought amiſs to caſt a Mite of Advice into the common Treaſury, and oppoſe a *General* Antidote to a *Catholick* Poiſon.

In order to this, and for the Safety, Honour, and true Intereſt of the Nation, 'tis offered to the ſerious Conſideration of all that have a Right to Elect Members to ſerve in Parliament. 1. That none be Choſen that Idly waſte their Eſtates, for they muſt Sell the Nation for Bread.

2. Nor that are common Drunkards, for they ſeldom know what they do.

3. Nor that Live Lazy Lives, for they cannot take pains to ſave the Nation.

4. Nor the Violent of any Perſwaſion, for they can endure none but themſelves.

5. Nor Perſons of known, or ſuſpected Ambition, or Avarice, for they will be Tongue-tied, with regard to the People, and Bribed againſt them by the powerful Baites of Wealth and Honour.

6. Nor Lawyers, but thoſe of known Virtue and Excellence, for 'tis the buſineſs of the reſt to perplex Matters with inſignificant Words and Forms.

7. Nor Men of Mean Education, for they often want Experience.

But in ſhort, Men of Practice, not Notion only, of Wiſdom, Wealth, Courage, Integrity, and Sobriety, are the only Perſons can Redeem this Nation from Slavery and Ruin, into which infallibly it will be plunged, if the People ſuffer themſelves to be affrighted from Chuſing ſuch Members as Maintain the Eſtabliſh'd Government of King, Lords, and Commons, together with the Rights of the People, becauſe Papiſts, or Popiſhly affected, who would introduce Popery and Slavery, Nick-name them Anti-monarchiſts, and Anti-Church-men.

So that the preſent Conteſt is not Monarchy and Common-wealth, but King *Willian*, and King *James*, Liberty and Slavery, Proteſtantiſm and Popery.

F I N I S.